THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme

†5. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the present Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme, being not on the basis of the farmer's personal crop and land holdings, is not proving practical;

(b) if so, the details of the insurance claims settled so far;

(c) whether there is in any scheme under consideration to introduce the Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme on personal basis;

(d) whether Government is contemplating to take any other corrective step to make the Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme more comprehensive and multidimensional; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) which are at present, under operation, are mainly area based schemes and loss assessment is made at the level of notified unit area of insurance and not on individual farm/farmer basis.

The schemes are proving beneficial to farmers. During the last 17 crop seasons (1999-2000 to 2007-08) claims amounting to Rs. 10600 crore approx. have been paid under NAIS. Similarly, under Pilot WBCIS claims amounting to Rs. 107.43 crore are paid during Kharif 2007 and Rabi 2007-08.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group constituted by the Government for the improvements of existing scheme *i.e.* NAIS, a proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) comprising reducing the unit area of insurance; improved method of calculation of threshold yield; higher level of indemnity; coverage of additional risks etc. is under consideration of the Government of India.

Utilization of manpower of farmers

†6. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of the country do not get work for most of the period of the year as a result of which the manpower of the country could not be utilized;

(b) whether Government has conducted or propose to conduct any study in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question we received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the results thereof; and

(d) the action taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Work opportunities for farmers depend on farming activities. Farming is characterized by busy and lean seasons. During busy season, farmers are employed. During lean season, employment opportunity decreases.

(b) and (c) The employment pattern is reflected in the quinquennial survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). As per the 61st round of NSS, in rural India, the proportion of "all" male workers engaged in the agricultural activities declined gradually from 81 percent in 1977-78 to 67 per cent in 2004-05. For "all" female workers, the decline was less *i.e.* from 88 percent in 1977-78 to 83 percent in 2004-05.

(d) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched on February 2, 2006 in 200 districts and extended to 130 more districts in 2007-08. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is in place in the districts not covered by NRGES.

Drought and floods during the monsoon season

7. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts suffered from drought condition during the monsoon season this year in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of districts flooded during the monsoon season this year, State-wise; and

(c) the total financial assistance rendered to the drought affected and flooded districts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) This year, the Government of Karnataka have intimated that, due to deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2008, 84 taluks in 21 districts in the State have been declared ad drought affected. No information regarding declaration of drought, due to deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2008, has so far been received from any other State.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs are concerned with matters relating to floods. State-wise details of number of districts affected by heavy rains/flash floods/floods/landslides, as reported to be intimated to them by the respective States, is indicated below: